

Orvis, John.

- ✓1 JO to John S[ullivan] Dwight, 1847 Jan. 16.
- ✓2 JO to Marianne (Dwight) Orvis, 1847 Jan. 16.
- ✓3 JO to Marianne (Dwight) Orvis, 1847 Feb. 5.
- ✓4 JO to [Marianne (Dwight) Orvis] 1847 Mar. 8.
- ✓5 JO to Marianne (Dwight) Orvis, 1847 Mar. 12.
- ✓6 JO to [Marianne (Dwight)] Orvis [1847 Aug. 23]
- ✓7 JO to Marianne [(Dwight)] Orvis, 1847 Aug. 31.
- ✓8 JO to [Marianne (Dwight)] Orvis, 1847 Sept. 5.
- ✓9 JO to Marianne (D[wight]) Orvis, 1847 Dec. 2.
- ✓10 JO to Marianne [(Dwight)] Orvis, 1847 Dec. 9.
- ✓11 JO to [Marianne (Dwight)] Orvis, 1847 Dec. 15.

Newburyport Jan 16th 1847.

Dear John - A weekly report is due here
follows an apology for one. We went direct
to Amesbury on Friday, but could not ob-
tain a place to speak in. We then crossed the
Merrimack, and lectured in Salisbury to a
small audience in the Congregational mee-
ting House on Saturday Evening. On Sunday
Evening lectured in the Universalist House
the house being engaged during the week by
Dr Darling, we left an appointment for
the following Saturday Evening (this evening)
at the same place. Monday was so stormy
that we did not make any effort to obtain
a place for lecturing. Tuesday we lectured
again in Salisbury to a pretty good audience.
We have since heard that our lectures were
very satisfactory.

Wednesday Evening we met Mr Channing
here. In the Washington Hall, we had a small
but select audience - Mr Channing talked
without any flow of feeling, or imagery but
admirably! Mr Allen making some intro-
ductory remarks. The lectures were received
with enthusiasm - The next evening
I made an opening speech in answer to the

question why do you seek a reorganization
of society. Brisbane followed in answer to the
same, & concluded by a sketch of the plan
of a Model Phalanx. & the mode of estab-
lishing it. The audience was larger this eve-
ning, & equally select. It was admitted that
we had the best audience that have ever
been known to attend any kind of popu-
lar lectures in this place. Last evening we
spoke on attractive industry. The govern-
ment of the Combined Order - & the failures
of attempted associations. It only needs
be said that our lectures here have been
perfectly successful in reaching the minds
who have listened to them. The papers all
speak cordially, & with favor of the lectures
& the lecturers. We have called on many
of the people, & find them deeply interest-
ed. Mr Eaton Universalist Minister is a thor-
ough, out & out, convert. You can hardly
imagine his zeal & enthusiasm. He is a beau-
tiful man, intelligent, gentle, & full of hu-
man feeling. He has offered to take me to
Old Davenhill in his Chaise some 18 miles
& to aid me in fitting up some lectures.
There we shall go either tonight or tomorrow
(early morning)

John Allen will lecture at Newbury tonight
preach for the Universalists tomorrow. & in the
evening speak in the Universalist Church
in this place. & ~~on~~ Monday evening
he will say that a Union is formed in
this place - As to funds, we are ^{on the} really ^{poor}
want side - we have not enough to pay our
expenses - and were it not for Mr Eaton's
offer, to carry me to Newbury I should be
obliged to walk, or use Harbinger funds.

I will here mention that the making or
directing of the Harbinger is managed with
unwarrantable carelessness. It is really too bad.
Mr Isaac Stevens of this place some time
ago paid \$2.00 for the Harbinger and has had
but two first nos of this volume - He would
be very glad of the paper, both for the reason
that he has paid for it, & that he likes it when
he can get it. I have not been to a single town
where the paper is taken, that I have not heard
the same complaint. Ought it to be so?

You will ^{please} send the Harbinger commencing
Vol IV. to the following persons in
Newburyport

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------|------|
| J. D. Robinson | — | \$ 2.00 | paid |
| Rev. Edwin S. Eaton | — | 2.00 | " |
| Dr. G. W. Henshaw | — | 2.00 | " |
| Samuel. H. Towle | — | 2.00 | " |

I shall be ^{at} home probably, Thursday or Friday.
Meantime I must work at best I can
in Havenhill. I have an introduction from
Anna Parsons to Miss Shipp. & with Mr
Eaton's aid hope to secure a hearing —

Mr. S. Dwight.

Brook Haven.

West Roxbury.

Mass.

Give my love to Mariame & tell her I am
well. I shall write to her today if I can —
Truly yr brother John Coville

John Coville. Jan. 16 1847.

[COPY]

Orvis, John to John S. Dwight

Newburyport Jan 16th 1847.

Dear John-- A weekly report is due, & here follows an apology for one. We went direct to Amesbury on Friday, but could not obtain a place to speak in. We then crossed the Messisseea [?] and lectured in Salisbury to a small audience in the Congregational Meeting House on Saturday Evening. On Sunday evening lectured in the Universalist House the house being engaged during the week by Dr Darling, we left an appointment for the following Saturday evening (this evening) at the same place. Monday was so stormy that we did not make any effort to obtain a place for lecturing. Tuesday we lectured again in Salisbury to a pretty good audience. We have since heard that our lectures were very satisfactory.

Wednesday evening we met Mr Channing here. In the Washington Hall we had a small but select audience--Mr Channing talked without any glow of feeling or imagery but admirably, Mr Allen making some introductory remarks. The lectures were received with enthusiasm. The next evening I made an opening speech in answer to the question why do you seek a reorganization of society. Brisbane followed in answer to the same, & concluded by a sketch of the plan of a model phalanx & the mode of establishing it. The audience was larger this evening, & equally select. It was admitted that we had the best audiences that have ever been known to attend any kind of popular lectures in this place. Last evening we spoke on attractive industry, the government of the combined orders & the fallacies of attempted associations. It only needs be said that our lectures here have been perfectly successful in reaching the minds who have listened to them. The papers all speak candidly and with favor of the lectures & the lecturers. We have called on many of the people, & find them deeply interested. Mr Eaton Universalist minister is a thorough, out & out convert. You can hardly imagine his zeal & enthusiasm. He is a beautiful man intelligent, gentle & full of humane feeling. He had offered to take me to Old Haverhill in his chaise some 18 miles & to aid me in getting up some lectures. There we shall go either tonight or tomorrow (some morning). John Allen will lecture at Amesbury tonight preach for the Universalists tomorrow, & in the evening speak in the Universalist church in this place & on Monday evening he will see that a Union is formed in this place--As to funds, we are really on the ~~out~~ side--We have not enough to pay our expenses and were it not for Mr Eaton's offer to carry me to Haverhill I should be obliged to walk or use Harbinger funds. I will here mention that the mailing and directing of the Harbinger is managed with much carelessness. It is really too bad. Mr. Isaac Stevens of this place sometime ago paid \$2 for the Harbinger and has had but two first nos of this volume--He would be very glad of the paper both for the reason that he has paid for it & that he likes it when he can get it. I have not been to a single town where the paper is taken, that I have not heard the same complaint. Ought it to be so?

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| Rev. Edwin A. Eaton-- | 2.00 " | Samuel H. Fowle | 2.00 " |

I shall be at home probably Thursday or Friday meantime I must work as best I can in Haverhill. I have an introduction from Anna Parsons to Miss Phipps & with Mr Eaton's aid hope to receive a hearing--.

Give my love to Marianne & tell her I am well. I shall write to her today if I can--

Truly yr brother

John Orvis

Envelop addressed to

John S. Dwight

Brook Farm West Roxbury
Mass.

Newburyport-

Saturday Jan 16th 1847

My dearest Marianne, do you know how intensely, I long to see your dear face this day? I am homesick I most heartily confess it. I have made engagements to go to Haverhill, which will detain me until next Thursday or Friday, but I have almost a mind ^{to} ~~quit~~ them, & sheer off to Brook Farm. I have never wished to see you so much as I have this day. How constantly you haunt me! O reconcile me to the separation, when duty & faith & conscience urge it. This world is all the brighter ~~and~~ lovelier to me through your love. I am more of a being, by union with you, but tis killing to be away from you. Here clearest I confess my weakness: not to weaken you, but that you may support me. Don't allow any childishness, to soften the firmness of your purpose, to animate me labor for the sublime hope of this age. I shall have triumphed over my feelings, myself tomorrow, & then shall wish, perhaps, that I had not perplexed you, with this simple rehearsal of my feelings. I really feel the soul's deep purpose strong within, & the day is becoming auspicious without. How sweet are the transient gleams of sunshine, which from time to time burst through the sombre clouds. Like rays of hope & gladness on the lonely & wearied heart. The weather has been abominable, all the time we have been out. And though the sun looks out occasionally to ^{still} the streets, one so many rivers of spork, & dirty water. It seems to me dearest, as if you were nestling in my bosom. I know you are quietly & patiently thinking of me, & insinuating yourself into my heart. You are! I feel you there

Why are you thinking more of me to-day, than you did yesterday? But I am foolishly impatient. I am not guilt as I ought to be. In the soul's true & deep quiet there would be always with me. I should feel thy arms, ever around my neck, see thy smile, feel thy kiss upon my lip. & thy whispered love in my ear. Though in boisterous wild & mild vigorous weather, & stupid natured, we should ramble among summer bowers, sweet flowers would smile upon us, their invisible joy, & air, & earth, & waters, would be thronged with blessed spirits, spreading for us bounties of poetry & beauty & love. How often & how lovingly have I listened to these spirits' ministrations, coming to me in stillness, like music from the Harp of the Great World-Silence stealing over the poet's soul. In the hour of self-blindness have I not ate the fire, which fell from the prophet's lips, & lit his eyes with holy vision. I fear, I am ashamed that I have not ^{been} patient, and satisfied. Be thou my loved confessor, & let not my weakness enervate thee. How art thou dearest? Well I'll trust I am well, content, & happy, since the inner quiet has spoken the outer chaos into order & beauty. The fierce tempest, & the great waves, like armed battalions, vanquished by the omnipotence of love, have retreated, low murmuring, into peace. This sunshine is bright at a cherub's smile. It is like a flash of love & joy, from thy ^{own} glad eyes. Thou art my star of bliss. I have set thee in my heart.

I must tell thee a word of our doings. The weather has been unpropitious. & we have lectured in but three places. Salisbury. Amesbury & Newburyport. As usual people are interested. I have no doubt, indeed, I know association is of God. because the human heart, everywhere makes such joyful confession to its beauty. It captivates all. But the long schooling of selfishness, which the race has had, stands like a mountain in the way of its realization. But "never say die, never say die!"

The good time is coming: we shall see it. Our meetings here have been more successful than we anticipated. We have had superior audiences in character & very respectable as to numbers for this place. It is said of our lectures, that they have called out a better class of hearers than any other ever given here. We have just awakened an interest, & had we the means of continuing them a week longer we could carry the place by hundreds. The papers have all spoken handsomely of the lectures & of the lecturers. They all inserted extended notices of our lectures gratis at the outset. We have not been able to anything by way of funds worth mentioning, we have collected about \$15.00 by subscription & contributions & \$8. for the Harbinger, but our expenses for Hall & advertising will cost 12 or 13 dollars. Mr Allen lectures at Amesbury to-night & all day to-morrow. To-morrow morning he will preach to the Universalists in this place. The Universalist minister here is a thorough convert, & a most hearty one - He will take me to Haverhill to-morrow morning, & aid me in getting a place to speak in Anna Johnsons, has written me an introduction to Henry Phelps I am to take tea with Mr Eaton the minister & stop with him to-night. Mr Allen will be here to form a Union on Monday evening. He is very earnest about it & I think will do it well. But we are of opinion at least, I am, that we had better separate - which will be done by my going alone to Haverhill. I hope to be at home by Friday at farthest. Then we shall lecture a while in the vicinity of home. I shall probably go to Watertown, Canton & Stoughton & Mr Allen to Halden, Medford & Lexington. At any rate, we must divide, for several reasons, but chiefly, to husband effort - to do as much as possible in a given time.

I will call at
 your house to see you & shall be glad to see you. You will not
 mind that I shall be a little at hand in the morning
 will you not? If you want any more I will bring them to
 you to see for me. Give my love to
 mother & father & all the people & tell them I am
 ever more to move they own John

They seem ever with me a few days. I know you will
 be calm & happy. Don't be disturbed by their crying.
 Show a slight smile with me & I fear it is inevitable
 and that makes the children so anxious to go out
 to school. If I had other words to say to the children
 all day & night I could have a great share. I hope I shall
 be well. Give my love to all but the nurse & the
 situation at the way home when the time is over.
 The American children. Give you much love on Friday

Moniamie Dwight David
 Brooke Garrison
 West Roxbury
 Mass

M-2
 230
 2

[COPY]
Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Newburyport

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Saturday Jan 18th 1847

My dearest Marianne, do you know how intensely I long to see your dear face this day? I am homesick I most heartily confess it. I have made engagements to go to Haverhill, which will detain me until next Thursday or Friday, but I have almost a mind to quit them, & sheer off to Brook Farm. I have never wished to see you so much as I have this day. How constantly you haunt me! O reconcile me to the separation when duty & faith & conscience urge it. This world is all the bright loveliness to me through your love. I am more of a being, by union with you, but tis killing to be away from you. Here dearest I confess my weakness not to weaken you, but that you may support me. Don't allow my childishness to soften the firmness of yr purpose to make me labor for the sublime hope of this age. I shall have triumphed over my feelings myself tomorrow, & then shall wish, perhaps, that I had not perplexed you with this simple rehearsal of my feelings. I really feel the soul's deep purpose strong within, & the day is becoming auspicious without. How sweet are the transient gleams of sunshine, which from time to time burst through the sombre clouds like rays of hope & gladness upon the lonely & wearied heart. The weather has been abominable all the time we have been out. And though the sun breaks out occasionally today still the streets are so many rivers of slush and dirty water. It seems to me dearest as if you were nestling in my bosom I know you are quietly & patiently thinking of me, & insinuating yourself into my heart. You are. I feel you there. Why are you thinking more of me today than you did yesterday? But I am foolishly impatient. I am not quiet as I ought to be. In the soul's true & deep quiet thou wilt be always with me. I should feel thy arms ever around my neck, see thy smile, feel thy kiss upon my lips & they whispered love in my ear. Though in barbarous wilds mid rigorous weathers & among stupid natures, we sh'd ramble among summer bowers, sweet flowers wd smile upon us, their invisible joy; & air & earth & waters wd be thronged with blessed spirits, spreading for us banquets of poetry & beauty & love. How often & how lovingly have I listened to these spirits' ministry, coming to me in stillness, like music from the harp of the great world-Silence stealing over the poet's soul. In the hour of self-blindness have I not ate the fire which fell from prophet's lips, & lit his eyes with holy vision Dearest, I am ashamed that I have not been patient and satisfied. Be thou my loved confessor & let not my weakness enervate thee. How art thou dearest? Well I'll trust I am well, content, & happy, since the inner quiet has spoken the outer chaos into order & beauty. The fierce tempest & the mood moves, like armed battalions, vanquished by the omnipotence of love, have retreated low murmuring into peace This sunshine is bright as a cherub's smile It is like a flash of love & joy from thy own glad eyes. Thou art my star of bliss. I have set thee in my heart. I must tell thee a word of our doings. The weather has been unpropitious & we have lectured in but three places Salisbury Amesbury & Newburyport. As usual people are interested I have no doubt, indeed, I know association is of God because the human heart everywhere makes such joyful confession to its beauty. It captivates all. But the long schooling of selfishness, which the man has had, stands like a mountain in the way of its realization. But "never say die, never say die! The good time is coming we shall see it. Our meetings here have been more successful than we anticipated We have had superior audiences in character-- & very respectable as to numbers for this place It is said of our lectures that they have called out a better class of hearers than any others ever given here. We have just awakened an interest, & had we the means of continuing here a week longer we could carry the place by hundreds.

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis Newburyport Jan 18, 1847

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My dear bear with me a few days. I know you will be calm & happy. dont be disturbed by Mrs Ripley I have a slight quarrel with her I fear it is her influence that makes the archan so reluctant to go out to lecture. If he & others would go as we do it be lighter for all. Fanny & Dolly have a I hope dear Fanny is well. Give her my love & tell her she must get written direction as to the way home when she goes to visit again the children. Will you meet me on Friday no Thursday in Boston to go & see them. I will call at Anna's to find you. You will write me, so as that I shall get a letter at Haverhill Wednesday will you not? If you want any wood get John Cheever to saw & I'll pay him. Give him my regards-- Give my dear love to mother father & all the people

Ever more & more thy own

John

Envelope addressed to Marianne Dwight Orvis
Brook Farm
West Roxbury
Mass.

New Bedford 3rd mo 5th 184th

Your precious letter, came to me last evening just as I was going on to the platform to speak. It is a real comfort to me, to hear how heroic you are. I know that you are so, & you ^{would} not act worthily of yourself to be childish. So far from being less receivable in the work of Affiliation, I am more so than ever before and I derive that augmentation of strength from you. My mind is at ease, & given wholly to my business. New energies impell me, & new motives urge me to action. You asked me not long since whether, it seemed any different to go out as a husband, from going out as a single man. Yes there is all the difference which I expected there would be & more, & that difference is all on the right side. The purpose of all unions is to strengthen the members, to greater joys, pains and and nobler efforts. It gives ambition the warmth & gentleness & refinements of love. It universalizes love and impells it beyond self. Man is an ambitious restless being in himself. He goes ever abroad after new conquests & new fields of honor, and under the dominion of this passion, becomes selfish tyrannical & heartless. Love renders him generous, turns ambition to noble ends & inspires a noble chivalry. Woman is a being of love. It's tendency in her nature, is to centralize all goodness & beauty, & to ascribe the object of her devotion in her own bosom. Her feeling is, let us live in the bosom of eternal love - withdraw from the world into our own heaven. Ambition ~~exalts~~

wedded with love extends ^{its} ~~the~~ sphere of ~~the latter~~. This is the mystery of true marriage if there be any mystery about it. I wish you could spend a day or two here with me. I want you to see some of the folks & I want they should see you. I tell them I am proud of my wife, & am not ashamed to boast of her superiority over all the women I ever saw. This is rather joking. I mean to say, that I keep thinking so within myself.

Last Monday Mr Allen & myself went to visit the Almshouse in this Town. It is a horrible sight, to behold men & women under the pretence of charity shut up in such a place deprived of all social advantages, & compelled to work receiving nothing but a miserable support for it. of if sick & not able to labor, crowded into apartments where there can be neither comfort, nor sympathy. These were some of the most miserable & degraded beings imaginable, inmates of this asylum (?) Men and women, who had worn themselves out in the service of the rich who had been spoiled of their industry & virtue were here sent to linger out the remainder of their lives in slavery. They are deprived of all true social existence. The men and women are never allowed to mix with society - not so much as to eat together, because they have become so degraded & brutal that such an indulgence would be abused. And yet this is the best poor house that I ever saw. It is built on a spacious plan - The rooms are large and rather nice - The furniture simple, but what there is of it, comfortable. - The house is warmed with

This steam throughout. Their Country's statement is the best I ever saw. It is worth venting as a sort of hint to what may be done in a combined Society. I saw poor sailors who had just returned from long, whaling voyages sick & destitute of comfort, while the cargoes of oil which their ships had brought in were fastened to the sides of the ships. I could not but feel degraded, almost as low as the poor creatures around me. I would sooner a friend of mine should die than go into even the New Bedford almshouse. Wednesday night was fearfully tempestuous and we had but a small audience. Mr. [redacted] occupied the evening in a criticism upon the present form of Society. Last evening I spoke about 1 1/4 hours the positive side. I made a good speech even if I say it. It told upon the audience. The audience was not large but it was a good one. I cannot tell what will be the issue yet. Perhaps the immediate results will not be so great as we thought appeared at first warranted us to hope for. It is thought that there will be a full audience to night. Brisbane will be here to speak. You entreat me to come home on Monday. I should like to do so, you know clearest, if all appears right. But you must not expect me, for I think I shall have to go to Fall River. The Union will hardly like to allow my travelling expenses so many times over. I think I shall be home after visiting Fall River. Allen wants me to go to Providence before returning, but that I cannot think of doing. I shall need a clean word-
wrote by them

But the construction of a paper would still make
 by them anything else which were often said that
 loss on the table until I can see the printed volume
 the Executive Board. I am not enthusiastic about
 my first printed volume I should be. I am writing in
 different about because I have never seen printed with
 open me from the field. I am to all about
 their soon leaving John

m-2
 230
 3



Mrs. Anne Dwight Corrie

Brook Farm
 West-Portbury
 Mass.

Now my dear friend I am not willing to hear you build things
 knowing many possibly join out. It will not, you don't
 know how much good the finer manner in which
 efforts of the Liberator himself, did me - I don't prefer
 that position - to see others. I wish to be in the place
 where I can do more for the cause.

John [Orvis] to Marianne Dwight Orvis

New Bedford 2nd mo 5th 1847.

Your precious letter came to me last evening just as I was going on to the platform to speak. It is a real comfort to me to hear how heroic you are I know that you are so, & you would not act worthy of yourself to be childish. So far from being less serviceable in the work of Association I am more so than even before and I derive this augmentation of strength from you-- My mind is at ease, and given wholly to my business. New energies impel me, & new motives urge me to action. You asked me not long since whether it seemed very different to go out as a husband, from going out a single man. Yes there is all the difference which I expected there would be & more, & that difference is all on the right side. The purpose of all union is to strengthen the members to greater purposes and nobler efforts. It gives ambition the warmth & gentleness & refinements of love. It universalizes love, and impels it beyond self. Man is an ambitious ruthless being in himself. He goes ever abroad after new conquests & new fields of honor, and under the dominion of this passion becomes selfish tyrannical & heartless. Love renders him generous, turns ambition to noble ends & inspires a noble chivalry. Woman is a being of love. Its tendency in her nature is to centralize all goodness & beauty & to enshrine the object of her devotion in her own bosom. Her feeling is, let us live in the convent of retired love--withdraw from the world into our own heaven. Ambition wedded with love extends its sphere. This is the mystery of true marriage if there be any mystery about it. I wish you could spend a day or two here with me. I want you to see some of the folks I want they should see you. I tell them I am proud of my wife, & am not ashamed to boast of her superiority over all the women I ever saw. This is rather joking. I mean to say, that I keep thinking so within myself.

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Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis New Bedford, 2nd mo 5th 1847

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thine own loving
John

Envelope addressed to Marianne Dwight Orvis
Brook Farm
West Roxbury
Mass

Edgartown Martha's Vineyard

March 8th 1847.

My Dear, I am on this solitary island, in sour weather without you. But it is solitary only because I am among strangers when I wish to be at home. The last week has been dreadful to me. I was three days at Apponizansett not at all to my liking. & I am here for a longer or shorter time as circumstances may determine. If matters move happily I shall stay a week at least. My lecture tonight, before the Lyceum of this place will settle the question. The people seem to be very intelligent & I have been waited on by several men of fine talents & liberal sentiments who are very desirous to hear a course of lectures. Among them is a young gentleman by the name of Pease, who is a painter and draftsman to the Government. He spends a good deal of time at Washington. He is a Swedenborgian, & is fully sick of all that he sees among the politicians at Washington. He says there is nothing to be expected from them but corruption, treachery to their parties & betrayal of the country. He is a very fine gentleman. He is acquainted with the movements of Mr. Owen at the Capital which he related to me in part. All will depend upon my lecture tonight. If I am happy in my effort there will be a great interest. for I am told the people are exceedingly excitable. That is not however a favorable omen in my opinion. It will do well for a time. But too suddenly heated, there will be danger of their becoming too suddenly cold. I am not quite so well as I should like to be but I am going to take time to prepare myself for a grand speech!!! I must hold up writing for the present & go a rambling on my theme. I must impress the people favorably to night. Much while pray for my success. Oh how I wish you were here to sit right before me all the while I am lecturing. It would inflame my fiery Guelken thoughts & liberate speech. But let us wait in hope. About borrow

Tuesday Morning. Well I succeeded so well in my lecture evening that I am to stay tonight. I gave a capital lecture for an introductory one. You will put the right meaning upon this. I have a right to tell you how well I do, without the charge of egotism. But I shall most likely have the pleasure of footing my own bills here. I am obliged to stop at a hotel, and the people seem rather fearful of taxation. But there are intelligent people here & Swedenborgianism is beginning to take root here & it seems important to introduce Association at the exposition & interpreters of the New Church mysteries. I do not think anything immediate will come of my lecturing but they will be a basis for something by & by. Last night I gave an entirely new lecture from any that I ever gave before, showing the necessity of a social reform. It was upon the nine scourges of civilized society. Tonight I shall speak on Affliction as the remedy. I am willing to stay as long as the best interest of the cause demands if it be a fortnight. But I am impatient to be at home. You must not expect me at all however for I cannot tell when I shall be able to be with you. I had a most pressing invitation to go to Manchester last evening at the close of my lecture. The gentleman said there were a great many friends there who would give me a hearty welcome. If we go to Manchester at all before the May meeting I don't know but we had better go now. By the way I was obliged to leave New Bedford in such haste, that I forgot to have your letters forwarded to me here, & it will be ten long days before I can hear from you. Your letters after the receipt of this, would not probably reach home until I should have left the island. It is possible that I may be at New Bedford on Friday evening. It will depend on Allen's meeting me on the wharf, as we talked a week ago when we parted.

I have spent a long time with a young man this morning from Charleston, S.C. who was away from the whole ship & landed at the Sandwich Islands. You ^{know} that is the ship which Frank Cabot is on board of. He left the Florida & accented himself on the ship York which was bound home. When the York was well out to sea he came from his hiding place. He is College educated is a passionate lover of music & plays with a great deal of appreciation Beethoven, Mozart, Paganini & Thalberg. I was much pleased with his intelligence but I think he has been a hard case. He is undoubtedly a talented fellow with a good share of vanity. He kept all his clattering except the coarse cotton suit which he had on when he got round from house to house in his horrible dress & is well come by all. He gave me a whalebone wine with a Californian pearl set. I suppose it is of no value. nor is there any beauty about it except in the pearl. But I like it. He gave me a very pleasant account of Frank saying that he

was well & happy & was well liked by the captain & officers. He speaks well of all the crew says they all have some gentility in their manner & are as active a crew as he ever saw. He thinks Goswami will do well - ~~that~~ ^{say} he has a friend on board of the name of Somers who is his most intimate friend. This young man's name is Berlin & left the ship last September. The Gloriosa had then but a very small port of her cargo. He thinks that Goswami will leave, if ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~aboard~~ ^{aboard} completely ~~there~~ ^{there} cargo, this year. But he does not know anything about it. This will be pleasant to News & the Cabots. I learned all this by accident. I was conversing with the mate of the York on the subject of whaling & mentioned that I had a friend on board the Gloriosa. He then told me of this young man & this morning I looked him up.

I don't think I ever made a more unpleasant tour than this has been in many things. At Matapoisett we were well loved to death by a man of a universalist minister, who was anxious to see down himself to our estimation by acting the pious fool, for having represented me as an infidel often my first lecturer there. We had no peace with him for he would hark us stop with him & his tongue was busy with idle chatter. I tried to read Don Quixote which I found among his books & told him he must excuse my reading it for it was new to me & I was intensely interested. So on leaving his house he offered to lend his Quixote, two volumes of which I took & you can't imagine what a comfort they have been to me in the general dearth of society, & sour & stormy weather. I have met with It is really one of the most interesting books that I ever read. Cervantes was really a prodigy. Don Quixote & his squire Sancho were as great curiosities of the Egyptian mummies. I spend what little time I can get in the study of the great & chivalrous characters of that notable knight of the sorrowful countenance. Thus you see that my voyage life is not wholly diverted from literature. Now accomplished I shall soon become under my present favorable circumstances, will be matters of conjecture in various quarters. How do you get on in the study of your view? It is too bad that I am denied all the pleasure of your reading. I don't see but banishment is my sentence. It is a hard fate, but I will show that it can be endured if so it be. You may be assured that I am growing unbearably homesick & shall be on my way home as soon as I can persuade myself that I can in conscience. Isn't that a pretty speech? What right have duty and attraction to conflict?

out of sheer disgust and hatred of the present order of things. I
am willing to sacrifice myself in suppling and minding its
foundations. What is the use in making Mexican bombs to
blow up San Juan d'illoa. There is work enough nearer home.
But this is nonsense, we cannot blow up anything. We can only
supersede - substitute the true for the false. The great soul
of the universe will mould all things after its ideal & it is for us
to read wisely the facts of our age. We cannot propound wisdom.
That is the business of the Sphinx. It is for us to answer well
the riddle which she asks us. The true soul is always calm
& serene. & a foolish impatience does never demur over it.
The world is a great game of foot-ball, but deeper than that
lies an eternal purpose which the ages shall fulfil. Man
works truly, only as he works from that purpose. Master
myself, and thou hast done much towards mastering the
world. Stand alone in audience with the great impersonal ^{soul} and
thou shalt learn the deep wisdom. and in it shalt see thy work
and gather the energy for it. Our little life belittles us. We
swim round on the surface of the sea. but we never explore
its depths. We grasp at the purple bubbles, which burst in the
air. We scarcely dive to the bottom where lie strown the rich
art treasures. Our poor communions what are! we meet
man & go from him a greater stranger than before we
met. Those we call friends. we fondle them in our arms
& we go from them empty. We have decked together the air
bubbles of privacy & sensualism. We have never bathed to-
gether in the ocean of infinite being, nor feasted on the nectar
of the gods. Blessed child, there is a common ground whereon we
may ever meet. It is that of the impersonal beauty - the world of
enchantment, which is the real world.

It is clearing up. I hope we shall have fair weather, yet. At any rate
he is fair within. Be careful of your health - your eyes - your head
& some time, hope to see me. mean while I fling you a kiss, in welcome
of the Spring. Flossa will soon love you, her magpie-like laughing flower.
We will have a stroll when I see you if the weather is fine. I have many
a fine walk by the ~~beach~~ sea - I meet you always there & in all
great & pure thoughts. Give my love to all our dear folk
you can scarcely tell how I long to see them. Be with me in
the real life. Even thine own John.

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[COPY]

Orvis, John to [Marianne Dwight Orvis]

Edgartown Marthas Vineyard
March 8th 1847.

My dear, I am on this solitary island, in dour weather, without you. But it is solitary only because I am among strangers when I wish to be at home. The last week has been doleful to me. I was three days at Apponigansett [?] not at all to my liking, & I am here for a longer or shorter time as circumstances may determine. If matters move happily I shall stay a week at least. My lecture tonight before the lyceum of this place will settle the question. The people seem to be very intelligent & I have been waited on by several men of fine talents & liberal sentiments who are very desirous to hear a course of lectures. Among them is a young gentleman by the name of Pease, who is a painter and draftsman to the Government. He spends a good deal of time at Washington. He is a Swedenborgian, & is fully sick of all that he sees among the politicians at Washington. He says there is nothing to be expected from them but corruption, treachery to their parties & betrayal of the country. He is a very fine gentleman. He is acquainted with the movements of Mr Owen at the Capital which he related to me in part. All will depend upon my lecture tonight. If I am happy in my effort there will be a great interest for I am told the people are exceedingly excitable. That is not however a favourable omen in my opinion. It will do well for a time. But too suddenly heated, there will be danger of their becoming too suddenly cold. I am not quite so well as I should like to be but I am going to take time to prepare myself for a grand speech!! I must hold up writing for the present & go aruminating on my theme. I must impress the people favourably tonight. Meanwhile pray for my success. O how I wish you were here to sit right before me all the while I am lecturing--It would inflame my fancy quicken my thought & liberate speech. But let us wait in hope. Nous verrons.

Tuesday morning. Well I succeeded so well in my lecture evening that I am to stay tonight. I gave a capital lecture for an introductory one. You will put the right meaning upon this. I have a right to tell you how well I do, without the charge of egotism. But I shall most likely have the pleasure of footing my own bills here. I am obliged to stop at a hotel, and the people seem fearful of taxation. But there are intelligent people here & Swedenborgianism is beginning to take root here & it seems important to introduce Association as the exposition & interpreters of the New Church mysteries. I do not think anything immediate will come of my lectures but they will be a basis for something by & by. Last night I gave an entirely new lecture from any that I ever gave before, showing the necessity of a social reform. It was upon the nine scourges of civilized society. Tonight I shall speak on Association as the remedy. I am willing to stay as long as the best interest of the cause demands if it be a fortnight, but I am impatient to be at home. You must not expect me at all however, for I cannot tell when I shall be able to be with you. I had a most pressing invitation to go to Nantucket last evening at the close of my lecture. The gentleman said there were a great many friends there who would give me a hearty welcome. If we go to Nantucket at all before the May meeting I don't know but we had better go now. Only think! I was obliged to leave New Bedford in such haste, that I forgot to have your letters forwarded to me here, & it will be ten long days before I can hear from you. Your letters after the receipt of this would not probably reach here until I should have left the island. It is possible that I may be at New Bedford on Friday evening. It will depend on Allen's meeting me on the Vineyard, as

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Orvis, John to [Marianne Dwight Orvis]

Edgartown Marthas Vineyard
March 8th 1847.

we talked a week ago when we parted. I have spent a long time with a young man this morning from Charleston S.C. who ran away from the whale-ship Florida at the Sandwich Islands. You know that is the ship which Frank Cabot is on board of-- He left the Florida & secreted himself on the ship York which was bound home. When the York was well out to sea he came from his hiding place. He is a college educated is a passionate lover of music, & plays with a great deal of appreciation Beethoven Mozart Rossini & Tholberg. I was much pleased with his intelligence, but I think he has been a hard case. He is undoubtedly a talented fellow with a good share of vanity. He left all his clothing except the coarse sailor suit which he had on. Here he goes round from house to house in his horrible dress & is welcomed by all. He gave me a whalebone with a California pearl set. I suppose it is of no value, nor is there any beauty about it except in the pearl. But I like it. He gave me a very pleasant account of Frank, saying that he was well & happy, & was well liked by the captain & officers. He speaks well of all the crew--says they all have some gentility in their manners & are as active a crew as he ever saw. He thinks Frank will do well--says he has a friend on board by the name of Somers who is his most intimate friend. This young man's name is Berlin[?] and left the ship last September. The Florida had then but a very small part of her cargo. He thinks that Frank will leave, if she does not complete the cargo, this year. But he does not know anything about it. This will be pleasant news to the Cabots. I learned all this by accident. I was conversing with the mate of the York on the subject of whaling & mentioned that I had a friend on board the Florida. He then told me of this young man & this morning I looked him up.

I dont think I ever made a more unpleasant tour than this has been in many things. At Mattapoissett we were bored to death by a ninny of a universalist minister, who was anxious to redeem himself in our estimation by acting the pliant fool for having represented me as an infidel after my first lectures there. We had no peace with him for he would have us stop with him & his tongue was busy with idle clatter. I tried to read Don Quixote which I found among his books & told him he must excuse my reading it for it was new to me & I was intensely interested. So on leaving his house he offered to lend his Quixote, two volumes of which I took, & you cant imagine what a comfort they have been to me in the general dearth of society, & dour & stormy weather which I have met with. It is really one of the most interesting books that I ever read. Cervantes was really a prodigy. Don Quixote & his esquire Sancho were as great curiosities as the Egyptian mummies. I spend what little time I can get in the study of the great & chivalrous characters of that notable knight of the sorrowful countenance. Thus you see that my vagrant life is not wholly diverted from literature. How accomplished I shall soon become under my present favorable circumstances will be matters of conjecture in various quarters. How do you get on in the study of Fourier? It is too bad that I am denied all the pleasure of your reading. I dont see but banishment is my sentence. It is a hard fate, but I will show that it can be endured if so it be. You may be assured that I am growing unbearably homesick & shall be on my way home as soon as I can persuade myself that I can in conscience. Isn't that a pretty speech? What right have duty and attraction to conflict? Out of sheer disgust and hatred of the present order of things I am willing to sacrifice myself in sapping and mining its foundations. What is the use in making Mexican bombs to blow up San Juan d Villola. There

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Orvis, John to [Marianne Dwight Orvis]

Edgartown Marthas Vineyard
March 8th 1847.

is work enough nearer home. But this is nonsense, we cannot blow up anything. We can only supersede--substitute the true for the false. The great soul of the universe will mould all things after its ideal & it's for us to read wisely the facts of our age. We cannot propound riddles. That is the business of the Sphinx. It is for us to answer well the riddle which she asks us. The true soul is always calm & serene & a foolish impatience does never demonize over it. The world is a great game at foot-ball, but deeper than that lies an eternal purpose which the ages shall fulfil. Man works truly, only as he works from that purpose. Master thyself and thou hast done much toward mastering the world. Stand alone in audience with the great impersonal soul and thou shalt learn the deep wisdom, and in it shalt see thy work and gather the energy for it. Our little life belittles us. We swim around on the surface of the sea but we never explore its depths. We grasp at the purple bubbles, which burst in the air, we scarcely dive to the bottom where lie thrown the rich est pearls. Our poor communions what avail[?]? We meet man & go from him a greater stranger than before, we meet those we call friends, we fondle them in our arms & we go from them empty. We have sucked together the air bubbles of frivolity & sensualism. We have never bathed together in the ocean of infinite being, nor feasted on the nectar of the gods. Blessed child, there is a common ground whereon we may ever meet. It is that of the impersonal beauty--the world of enchantment, which is the real world.

It is clearing up. I hope we shall have fair weather yet. At any rate it is fair within. Be careful of your health--your eyes--your head & in due time, hope to see me. Meanwhile I fling you a kiss, in welcome of the spring. Flora will soon bring you her magical laughing flowers. We will have a stroll when I see you, if the weather is fine. I have many a fine walk by the sea--I meet you always there & in all great & pure thoughts. Give my love to all our dear folks. You can scarcely tell how I long to see them-- Be with me in the real life.

Ever thine own

John.

Holmes' Hole. March 12th 1847-

My Dear Marianne -

I have only time to scrawl a line to you & enclose the mail closed. I am sorry to be obliged to tell you that I shall not be home this week. I shall lecture here to night, & to-morrow evening. & there will not be any communication with the ~~Main~~ Main, until Monday perhaps Tuesday. So I shall be compelled to spend another Sunday on this to me, now desolate island. I am heartily homesick at desiring of seeing you: but still I suppose I could live a long time yet without it, if it were best and needful. I only wish you to know how brown I am, but do not imagine that you feel a great ^{deal} worse about it, than I do. I do think I am a little browner than you have represented yourself to be, but not browner, than you really are.

I lectured three evenings at Edgartown - There was a great deal of interest in all regions but that of the packet. My expenses were a dollar a day. & they gave me in all 99 cents. But if I had told them that they must meet my expenses they would probably have done it. But for the last ten days, I have spent about \$5. for my board alone. At this rate I shall soon be out of funds. My lectures were really good at Edgartown. They were rather satisfactory to myself. And the people wanted more of them. but I could

not afford it from my purse, nor from my
social treasury.

Here the conditions upon which I lecture here
are that my expenses be borne at least. I shall
not of course be at New Bedford tonight, with
Allen & Brisbane.

I mean to be home as soon as possible - by Tuesday
at farthest. But all will depend upon whether I
am weather bound here or not.

Mean while be patient. I do be bright and well,
for your own sake, as will be for mine. I shall
expect to find you as cheerful as a sun beam.
Now I shall be sorely unhappy & disappointed to
find you otherwise. My love to all the dear ones
Even your own John.

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1848

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Mrs. Merriam Dwight Cook
Brook Haven
West Roxbury
Mass.



John Orvis to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Holmes' Hole, March 12th, 1847

My dear Marianne-

I have only time to scrawl a line to you ere the mail closes. I am sorry to be obliged to tell you that I shall not be home this week. I shall lecture here tonight & tomorrow evening & there will not be any communication with the Main, until Monday perhaps Tuesday. So I shall be compelled to spend another Sunday on this to me now desolate island. I am heartily homesick at desirous of seeing you, but still I suppose I could live a long time yet without it, if it were best and needful. I only wish you to know how brave I am, but do not imagine that you feel a great deal worse about it than I do. I do think I am a little braver than you have represented yourself to be, but not braver than you really are.

I lectured three evenings at Edgartown--there was a great deal of interest in all regions but that of the pocket. My expenses were a dollar a day & they gave me in all 99 cents. But if I had told them that they must meet my expenses they would probably have done it. But for the last ten days I have spent about \$5 for my board alone. At this rate I shall soon be out of funds. My lectures were really good at Edgartown. They were sometimes satisfactory to myself and the people wanted more of them, but I could not afford it from my purse, nor from my social treasury.

Now the conditions upon which I lecture here are that my expenses be borne at least. I shall not of course be at New Bedford tonight, with Allen & Brisbane.

I mean to be home as soon as possible--by Tuesday at farthest. But all will depend upon whether I am weather bound here or not.

Meanwhile be patient & do be bright and well, for your own sake as well as for mine. I shall expect to find you as cheerful as a sunbeam. Now I shall be sorely unhappy & disappointed to find you otherwise. My love to all the dear ones

Ever your own

John

I will buy Amelia's Secretary, but cannot
give her more than \$12. for it - for second-hand
furniture of that kind, is very cheap -
I wish you would let me know if Mr Tweedy has
sent you that \$25.00 according to order - Tell me
whether you shall be likely to work any more
before I get home -

I have to meditate my speech for this eve-
ning a while & must close soon. Tell Frank
to write me - I shall write to Mr Harbinger
when we get done here - By the way have there
any letters in reference to the Experimental
Association come to hand? I have not got
a Harbinger since leaving home tho the prin-
ters send them? How dreadful & dismal it
must be at B.F. now the Schottles & so many are
gone - John Allen is full of Ellen Loring's
"signing like furnace" & though his "prospect is
darkening" he "thinks it will go." But Keep dark!
now blessed child. I am well & determined
be you calm & hopeful - Give my love to our
blessed mother - to Father Fanny, Frank & John
How do you get your water carried?

I am ever your devoted

John

I enclose this miserable paper & I'll not
use for your letters again

I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I am now in the city and will be here for some time. I will write you again soon.

I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I am now in the city and will be here for some time. I will write you again soon.

I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I am now in the city and will be here for some time. I will write you again soon.

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I have been thinking of writing you for some time but have been so busy that I could not find time. I am now in the city and will be here for some time. I will write you again soon.



Miss John Davis
Brook Farm
West Portbury
Mass.

[COPY]

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

[on postmark] Utica, Aug. 23, n.y. ¹⁸⁴⁷

I will buy Amelia's secretary, but cannot give him more than \$12 for it, for second-hand furniture of that kind is very cheap.

I wish you would let me know if Mr Tweedy has sent you that \$25.00 according to orders-- Tell me whether you shall be likely to want any more before I get home--

I have to meditate my speech for this evening a while & must close soon. Tell Frank to write me--I shall write to the Harbinger when we get done here--By the way have there any letters in reference to the Experimental Association come to hand? I have not got a Harbinger since leaving home--do the printers send them? How dreadful & dismal it must be at B.F. now the Schetters & so many are gone-- John Allen is full of Ellen Lazarus--"sighing like furnace" & though his "prospect is darkening" he "thinks it will go." But keep dark!

Now Blessed Child. I am well & determined: be you calm & hopeful-- Give my love to our blessed mothers--to Father Fanny, Frank & John. How do you get your water carried?

I am ever your dearest

John

p s Excuse this miserable paper & I'll not use for your letters again

Envelope addressed to Mrs John Orvis
Brook Farm
West Roxbury
Mass.

Rochester Aug 31. 1847.

My Dearest Marianne - I come to this City about 3 o'clock this morning, from Baldwinsville where I had spent two days with brother Jacob & his family; & with Myron who met me in Syracuse the morning after our arrival. I got your letter at Syracuse & this morning both of those directed to me at this City. You can hardly think how invaluable your letters are to me; & those of this morning which "expressed progress" were peculiarly gratifying. I am not sentimental nor babyish, when I say, that you doubtless know how homesome & homesick I am at times & how almost constantly, my heart yearns to beat against thine own. Dearest, may the happy news of improved health, add wings to every letter, which you may send me in future. I love to think of you as sweet & serene, & as blissful at Paradise could render you. The calmness of great & pure thought, the inspiration of the deepest and holiest love, & the charm of poetic beauty would unfold my life, if a fond husband could realize his project for thee. Thou art set within my being, ~~and~~ which gives it all its beauty. how I long to have that beauty ^{to} reflected back upon you, as to make you the mother of angels. O my dearest Marianne, do keep ^{within you} the heaven of

a mind consecrated to great & active thought
smitten with the love of beauty & exalted
by the purest devotion. I must beg the good
angels to introduce you into the society of the
Great, the Good, & the Beautiful: for I am too
poor, too proveling, & unworthy to approach you.
O I would that I could command all perfect spir-
its, to create a world of beauty for you - You
will not I am sure allow any thought about
our future prospect ^{to} be any other than pleasant
& cheerful to you. I am sure that all will
be well & we may be happy & more than all
useful, which is to be beautiful indeed.

You are wondering that I have not written
^{earlier} ~~before~~ since leaving Utica, but I have been
exceedingly busy, & have not had a moment
of time, even for rest. We had only two mee-
tings in Syracuse, & we were both so fatigued
with our efforts at Utica that we did not do
so well as we should have liked to do: but the
audiences were very much pleased & so we
concluded to be pleased also. Our meetings
were small but composed of the very best
people in the place. This you know was the
grand centre of Men Collins' agitation & we
had supposed that ~~achieving~~ would hardly be
possible for any kind of Social reform lecture
but the citizens of that place, are well aware
of all the causes of Collins' failure, & don't

judge even Communism, by that phenomenon
much less Association. Samuel J. May was
exceedingly hospitable & generous towards us;
& did all in his power to aid us. We have been
unanimously requested by ~~our~~ our hearers, to visit
Syracuse in November & to hold meetings for
three weeks, & at their expense. Samuel J. May
Mr Joseph Savage Mr Stephen Smith & the editor
of the Star, are foremost in making the
request. Messrs Savage & Smith were the ear-
liest & latest friends of Collins' Movement, &
are the wealthiest citizens in Syracuse. Is there
not cause for encouragement?

On Saturday afternoon Myron & myself went to
Baldwinsville together & spent two days. Myron's
health is considerably improved & he is on his
way to Wisconsin. He left Harrisburgh about a week
ago. Mother was quite unwell. Her eyes were quite
sore & painful; & her feet were so swollen from
inflammatory rheumatism, that she was unable
to walk. He felt very badly about leaving her at
such a time, but it was concluded to be best that
he should meet me, which he did accordingly. I
had a very good visit at my brother's, & found them
in much better circumstances than I had ex-
pected. On Monday afternoon, I took my leave of
them; Jacob & Myron taking me in a wagon, about
eight miles, to the rail-road. It was exceedingly hard
to part with Myron. He never appeared so good
to me as he did at Baldwinsville. He is a young

man of a beautiful spirit, & incorruptible integrity. He wanted to have received a letter from you in answer to ~~this~~, before leaving home. He often spoke very affectionately of you, & of the delight it would have afforded him, to have analysed flowers with you, & to have rombled ^{with you} together, in search of new varieties. He sends his love to you, & wishes ~~you~~ you to write him a letter, which shall reach Fond-dulac by the time that he does. He will remain a week longer with Jacob; Brother Jacob and his wife, Caroline, send their love to you, & desire to see you very much.

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The prospect for meetings in this city is less favorable than that of any place which we have previously visited. It is the nest wherein was hatched that anomalous brood of birds, called the "Sodist Boy Phalanx" the "Clarkson Phalanx" the "Bloomfield Phalanx" & the "Manchester Union". The very name of Association is added out with the public: and the unfortunate people who went into these movements, in such mad haste, have been ridiculed till endurance is no longer possible; & they are slunk away from the sight & knowledge of their neighbors. There are some who always were, & will be so poor as to have nothing to sacrifice that are still as open before the world as they can be. There are two or three families however, of those whose circumstances command them influence, that are steadfast Associationists. We shall make an effort to give two lectures here & afterwards determine what else is to be done in the premises.

Sept 1.

Mr Brisbane met us here yesterday morning but he returned to Batavia in the evening. He appeared very well excepting that his eye troubles him a good deal now. He is going to make arrangements for our lectures in Batavia & vicinity & in Buffalo. but he thinks nothing can be done West of Rochester in the State of New York. I think now of going to Buffalo & then of returning to Canandaigua, Waterloo, Seneca Falls - King's Ferry, Poplar Bridge, Westmoreland, Utica, Hamilton, Troy, Cohoes Falls, Springfield & home. I ought to have six weeks, or two months, to make these visits, but shall not have more than four weeks.

Brisbane tells us to come to Batavia & he will see that we have a good home, & are treated as gentlemen. He is just as full of the great things which he is going to do as ever. I wish he would get some of them out especially Fourier's Translation - But I think he begins to regard it importantly that there should be a commentary accompanying it, & he is going to write it. Much good will it do the world, when he publishes Fourier's Universal Unity. Mr. Pugh had better take the Translation & give it to the Boston Union or to Frank Shaw, if he deems that the world should be benefitted by it.

There are some interesting facts, connected with the fortunes of some of the Phalanxes in this neighborhood which I mean to obtain if possible. So far as I have been able to learn the fortunes do but prove the practicability of Fourier's Theory.

Now John Allen is in a quandary that his Lulcinea del Toboro does not write him a letter now if I were but as expensively as Sancho Panza I could write him one that would answer, as well. I imagine that he begins to suspect that he has not got such hold on her affections as he had promised himself. Nous verrons he is determined not to be worsted in the contest.

As to writing for the Harbinger, I begin to think that it is entirely out of the question. I cannot find the time except when I am too much fatigued to attempt it. I wonder if the Executive Committee of the Union have any idea of the nature of lecturing. I should like to see Misses Ripley Swigg & Channing doing what we are obliged to do in almost every place. In the first place we have to spend sometimes two days in running about ~~up~~ calling upon such persons as we can ascertain

to take any manner of interest in Association - if
we cannot find any of this class. We then ask
for reformers of any & all kinds - National Pro-
tectionists, Leaguers on any thing else - At the end
of the second day we can usually get a meeting
- Sometimes there will be a dozen & sometimes
twice that number, at the first meeting -
Having got one meeting we determine to push
it to hold one until we make an impression -
This is a place at the attractive industry of a be-
turning group. I hope some of the "School" will
one day have a taste of the luxury of doing
good. Much of the time we are obliged to travel
all night & catch what sleep we can in a jam-
ed passenger-coach or in the cant of the wagon
- wait - road in a quail. But 'tis all right or -
at least will soon be so.

Now blessed be you are wearied to death with
the stupidity of this endless scroll so here it
ends with my warmest love to all our folks
I am all the while reproaching myself with not
having made the provision I wanted to for your
comfort - Mother is killing herself with caring
for you. Send your next letter to Kings' Ferry
Cayuga Co - Yours ever dearly

John

May John Covick

Brook Farm

West Roxbury
Mass.



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[COPY]

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Rochester Aug 31, 1847.

My dearest Marianne-- I came to this city about 3 o'clock this morning, from Baldwinsville where I had spent two days with brother Jacob & his family: & with Myron who met me in Syracuse the morning after our arrival. I got your letters at Syracuse & this morning both of those directed to me at this city. You can hardly think how invaluable your letters are to me; & those of this morning which "report progress" were peculiarly gratifying. I am not sentimental nor babyish, when I say, that you don't know how lonesome & homesick I am at times & how almost constantly my heart yearns to beat against thine own. Dearest may the happy news of improved health add wings to every letter which you may send me in future. I love to think of you as sweet & serene, & as blissful as Paradise could render you. The calmness of great & pure thought, the inspiration of the deepest and holiest love, & the charm of poetic beauty would infold my life, if a fond husband could realize his prayers for thee. Thou gem set within my being, which gives it all its beauty how I long to have that beauty so reflected back upon you, as to make you the mother of angels. O my dearest Marianne, do keep within you the heaven of a mind consecrated to great & active thought smitten with the love of beauty & exalted by the purest devotion. I must beg the good angels to introduce you into the society of the Great the Good & the Beautiful for I am too poor, too groveling & unworthy to approach you & I would that I could command all perfect spirits, to create a world of beauty for you. You will not I am sure allow any thought about our future prospect to be any other than pleasant & cheerful to you. I am sure that all will be well & we may be happy & more than all useful, which is to be beautiful indeed. You are wondering that I have not written earlier since leaving Utica, but I have been exceedingly busy, & have not had a moment of time, even for rest. We had only two meetings in Syracuse, & we were both so fatigued with our efforts at Utica that we did not do so well as we should have liked to do, but the audiences were very much pleased & so we concluded to be pleased also. Our meetings were small but composed of the very best people in the place. This you know was the grand centre of Mr Collins' agitation & we had supposed that any hearing would hardly be possible for any kind of social reform-lecture but the citizens of this place are well aware of all the causes of Collins' failure, & do not judge our Communism by that phenomenon much less Association. Samuel J. May was exceedingly hospitable & generous towards us, & did all in his power to aid us. We have been unanimously requested by our hearers, to visit Syracuse in November & to hold meetings for three weeks, & at their expense. Samuel J. May Mr Joseph Savage Mr Stephen Smith the editor of the Star, are foremost in making the request. Messrs Savage & Smith were the earliest & latest friends of Collins' movement, & are the wealthiest citizens in Syracuse. Is there not cause for encouragement!

On Saturday afternoon Myron & myself went to Baldwinsville together & spent two days. Myron's health is considerably improved & he is on his way to Wisconsin. He left Ferrisburgh about a week ago. Mother was quite unwell. Her eyes were quite sore and painful, & her feet were so swollen from inflammatory rheumatism that she was unable to walk. He felt very badly about leaving her at such a time, but it was concluded to be best that he should meet me, which he did accordingly. I had a very good visit at my brother's & found them in much better circumstances than I had expected. On Monday afternoon I took my leave of them; Jacob & Myron taking me in a wagon about eight miles, to the soil-road. It was exceedingly hard to part with Myron. He never appeared so good to me as he did at Baldwinsville.

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Rochester Aug 31, 1847.

He is a young man of a beautiful spirit, & of incorruptible integrity. He wanted to have received a letter from you in answer to his, before leaving home. He often spoke very affectionately of you, & of the delight it would have afforded him to have analyzed flowers with you, & to have rambled with you in search of new varieties. He sends his love to you, & wishes you to write him a letter, which shall reach Fond-du-lac by the time that he does. He will remain a week longer with Jacob. Brother Jacob and his wife Caroline send their love to you, & desire to see you very much.

The prospect for meetings in this city is less favorable than that of any place which we have previously visited. It is the nest wherein was hatched that anomalous brood of birds, called the "Godut[?] Boy Phalanx" the "Clarkson Phalanx" the "Bloomfield Phalanx" & the "Manchester Union" The very name of Association is odious with the public and the unfortunate people who went into these movements, in such mad haste, have been ridiculed till endurance is no longer possible; & they are alunk away from the sight & knowledge of their neighbors. There are some who always were & will be so poor as to have nothing to sacrifice that are still as open before the world as they can be, & there are two or three families however, of those whose circumstances command their influence, that are steadfast Associationists. We shall make an effort to give two lectures here & afterwards determine what else is to be done in the premises.

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Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Rochester Aug. 31, 1847.

in running about calling upon such persons as we can ascertain take any manner of interest in Association. If we cannot find any of this class we then ask for reformers of any & all kinds--Nationals Protectionists Leaguers or anything else--At the end of the second day we can usually get a meeting sometimes there will be a dozen & sometimes twice that number at the first meeting--Having got our meeting we determine to push it to hold on until we make an impression This is a glance at the attractive industry of a lecturing group. I hope some of the "School" will ere long have a taste of the luxury of doing good. Much of the time we are obliged to travel all night & catch what sleep we can in a jambed packet-boat or in the cars of the worst mail-coach [?] imaginable. But 'tis all right or at least will soon be so.

Now blessed One you are wearied to death with the stupidity of this endless scrawl so here it ends with my warmest love to all our folks I am all the while reproaching myself with not having made the provision I wanted to for your comfort-- Mother is killing herself with caring for you. Send your next letters to Kings Ferry Cayagu Co.

Yours ever dearest
John

Envelope addressed to Mrs John Orvis
Brook Farm
West Roxbury
Mass.

Waterloo Sept 5. 1847.

My Dear. This paper again in spite of my
promise, not to use it again. It is capital paper to write
upon. I am spending this Sunday in one of the
most delightful Quaker families that I ever
knew. There are four most beautiful
daughters in the family. Their intelligence &
refinement are equal to their beauty. They
were formerly of Philadelphia & their names
are M^{rs} Clinton. I first became acquainted with
them about 4 years ago. I had well nigh lost
my heart among them at that time, & they are
exceedingly agreeable to me now. I wish you
could become acquainted with them. You don't
know how kind they are to me, & how much
they love me. I don't know but they wish
that I were not — There is only one of them
an associationist. She is, I think the truest
one, but not the most talented. They are de-
lightfully lovable folks, & I wish you knew
how beautiful such an oasis is, to your poor
desert-wanderer. The names of these beautiful
sisters are Lizzy, Mary, Sarah & Julia. They
only need the ministry of music, to call forth
into expression, the deep calm beauty of
their natures, & which occasionally betrays
itself in the gentle glances of their large blue
eyes.

But dearest, from amidst all this sweet beauty my
spirit ~~and~~ breaks ^{away} an unwilling prisoner, & flies
to you. It compasses the wide distance between us
regardless of breaking the Sabbath, by making
so long a journey - & despite the threatening
against those who commit that sin. I wish I could
be with you in the fulness of my being - person-
ally as well as spiritually - But be of good cheer
I am on my way to you. My course is homeward
though it wend but slowly. I shall come to you
in all this month. The opportunity for lectures
west of Rochester was so inauspicious that we
concluded, that but one of us ought to go as
far as Buffalo. Mr Allen will fill the appoint-
ments to the westward, & will likely go as
far as Cincinnati. The last field of labor in
N.Y. is eastward of Synagogue - I shall visit as
many of the places mentioned in my last let-
ter to you, as I can between this and the 1st Oct
there is ample opportunity for lectures through-
out the whole of that region. Mr Allen is
going to Cincinnati to see what the prospects
may be for our starting a paper, school
&c there. We have concluded to do that, as
the best thing possible for us & the Cause
We must devote ourselves to Association &
at the same time, secure to ourselves the
means of support. We have not as yet

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made any definite plans in relation
to it. but have the thing in contemplation
& Mr Allen goes to see what encouragement
there may be for it. We have had a very good
offer in Utica, but we do not wish to be so
near the Centre in New York, as to interfere
with the circulation of the Harbinger. We
know that we can publish a paper, that will
be serviceable to the cause, & which we think will
be both popular & profitable. We shall be
alternately lecturing all the while, and at
the same time corresponding with the paper
& obtaining subscribers for it. Allen will al-
so see what encouragement there may be in
Cincinnati for the Associative School, which
you & the Schettlers talked about. We are deter-
mined now to plan ourselves upon an inde-
pendent basis, as to a living, so that it shall not
depend upon the contingencies of any Society's
treasury, whether or not we may labor in
Association & behalf, to which service our
lives are pledged. The result of his observa-
tions in Ohio must determine our course -
I have seen Davis's book, & read it somewhat,
what a production it is too. He is grand in his
thought, profound in his philosophy, rational
in his religion. Humanistic in his cosmog-
ony & theory of Society. & calm described &

liberal, whilst like it is inevitable in his criticism
upon the existing social institutions. Whatever
may be said of the conditions under which
he is said to have dictated it, it cannot fail
of doing immense good. I don't come what were
the circumstances under which it was written
it must be judged of by its intrinsic merits
& the philosophy which it unfolds must be
tested by the laws of positive science. I have not
as yet got any new ideas from it. It seems to
have stated in a very clear & happy manner
those great principles which Fourier has un-
folded by mathematical formulae - though
Swedenborg revealed in a mystical style
which were
& prevented somewhat, in passing through
the medium of his early prejudices.
But to this book must be accredited the honor
of containing the profoundest system of phi-
losophy combined with the loftiest eloquence
& sublimest poetry of any book which has
appeared for ages, excepting always Fourier's

But you have doubtless seen it & heard a
great deal said of its merits. What say the
Nonconform editions of it. By the way I have not
got but one number of that paper since
leaving home & that was at Syracuse - It
is curious I think & the one I asked John
to send me, has not come to hand either.
But I got along without it.

I lectured Lane last evening to a small audience & am to speak again this evening — I have not much hope of effecting anything important here. but in as much as my expenses were paid from Rochester I was glad to come here. I ~~do~~ expect to lecture at Seneca Falls 3 miles from here tomorrow evening & till Wednesday evening. but if not I shall go directly to King's Ferry where I ^{shall} spend ten days or more.

It is nearly time for meeting & I must close for the sake of a few moments of reflection before-hand. I am anxious to hear how you are. Your letter to Batavia I shall not get until I reach King's Ferry where I told Allen to forward it. I trust it not late to go to Batavia although Mr B's father sent us a pass over the Rail-road from Rochester to his place. You will have sent me another letter to King's Ferry ere I get there. I am anxious to hear from you & from father & mother & indeed. Give them my love & earnest gratitude for their kindness to you & also to all our family. I am pretty well though tired beyond measure. No one can tell without trial the exhausting & fatiguing labors of a lecturer. It is everlasting talk. O the loving & grateful & beautiful. Even your dearest John.

A circular postmark from Waterbury, Connecticut, dated September 10, 1894. The text "WATERBURY" is at the top, "CT." is in the middle, and "SEP 10 1894" is at the bottom.

Ma

John

David

Brook Farm

Walt Foxberry

March

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[Faint background handwriting from reverse side]

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1900

Mrs John Davis
Book House
West Roxbury
Mass.

10

M-2
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[COPY]

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Waterloo Sept 5 1847.

My dear. This paper again in spite of my promise not to use it again. It is capital paper to write upon I am spending this Sunday in one of the most delightful Quaker families that I ever knew. There are four most beautiful daughters in the family. Their intelligence & refinement are equal to their beauty. They were formerly of Philadelphia & their names are M'Clintock. I first became acquainted with them about 4 years ago. I had well nigh lost my heart among them at that time, & they are exceedingly agreeable to me now. I wish you could become acquainted with them. You don't know how kind they are to me, & how much they love me. I don't know but they wish that I were not-- There is only one of them an associationist. She is I think the truest one, but not the most talented. They are delightfully loveable folks, & I wish you knew how beautiful such an oasis is, to your poor desert-wanderer. The names of these beautiful sisters are Lizzy, Mary, Sarah & Julia. They only need the ministry of music to call forth into expression the deep calm beauty of their natures, & which occasionally betrays itself in the gentle glances of their large blue eyes. But dearest from amidst all this sweet beauty my spirit breaks away an unwilling prisoner and flies to you. It compasses the wide distance between us regardless of breaking the Sabbath by making so long a journey & despite the threatnings against those who commit that sin. I wish I c'd be with you in the fulness of my being--personally as well as spiritually--but be of good cheer I am on my way to you. My course is homeward though it wend but slowly. I shall come to ye in all this month. The opportunity for lectures west of Rochester was so inauspicious that we concluded that but one of us ought to go so far as Buffalo. Mr Allen will fill the appointments to the westward, & will likely go as far as Cincinnati. The best field of labor in N Y is eastward of Syracuse--I shall visit as many of the places mentioned in my last letter to you, as I can between this and the 1 Oct. There is ample opportunity for lectures throughout the whole of that region. Mr Allen is going to Cincinnati to see what the prospect may be for our starting a paper, school &c there. We have concluded to do that, as the best thing possible for us & the cause. We must devote ourselves to Association & at the same time, secure to ourselves the means of support. We have not as yet made any definite plans in relation to it, but have the thing in contemplation & Mr Allen goes to see what encouragement there may be for us. We have had a very good offer in Utica, but we do not wish to be so near the Centre in New York, as to interfere with the circulation of the Harbinger. We know that we can publish a paper, that will be serviceable to the cause, & which we think will be both popular & profitable. We shall be alternately lecturing all the while, and at the same time corresponding with the paper & obtaining subscribers for it. Allen will also see what encouragement there may be in Cincinnati for the Associative School, which you & the Schettlers talked about. We are determined now to plan ourselves upon an independent basis, as to a living, so that it shall not depend upon the contingencies of any Society's treasury, whether or not we may labor in Association's behalf, to which service our lives are pledged. The result of his observations in Ohio must determine our course-- I have seen Davis's book & read it somewhat what a production it is too. He is grand in his thought, profound in his

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Waterloo Sept 5 1847.

philosophy, rational in his religion, Fourieristic in his cosmogony & theory of society & calm dignified & liberal, whilst he is irresistible in his criticism upon the existing social institutions. Whatever may be said of the conditions under which he is said to have dictated it, it cannot fail of doing immense good. I don't care what were the circumstances under which it was written it must be judged by its intrinsic merits & the philosophy which it unfolds must be tested by the laws of positive science. I have not as yet got any new ideas from it. He seems to have stated in a very clear & happy manner those great principles which Fourier has unfolded by mathematical formulas--& which Swedenborg revealed in a mystical style & which were perverted somewhat, in passing through the medium of his early prejudices. But to this book must be accredited the honor of containing the profoundest system of philosophy combined with the loftiest eloquence & sublimest poetry of any book which has appeared for ages, excepting always Fourier's. But you have doubtless seen it & heard a great deal said of its merits. What say the Harbinger editors of it-- By the way I have not got but one number of that paper since leaving home & that was at Syracuse-- It is curious I think & the one I asked John to send me, has not come to hand either. But I got along without it.

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Ever your dearest
John

Envelope addressed to Mrs John Orvis
Brook Farm
West Roxbury
Mass.

Worcester Dec 2nd 1847.

Dear Marianne -

Rejoice with me! God helps those who help themselves! Wisdom & perseverance will secure the triumph of a noble purpose. Monday I left Boston at 2 1/4 o'clock P.M. I reached Worcester about 5 o'clock, went to the office of the Christian Citizen where I found our true & cordial friend Mr Butlerfield who alone invited me home with him to Messrs Sawyer & Sedwell's house. I found them on the point of breaking up housekeeping but glad to ^{me} receive me at their board. I stayed with them until this morning when Mr B & myself took leave of them as Mr L's folks were to leave for Exeter in the afternoon & all the household would then be broken up & Mr S's folks would be packing up for the South. ~~On Monday~~ I counted about two or three among the Protestants & working men - found I could not lecture until Wednesday evening. Every body but the working men told me Worcester was a hard place - that I could not do anything. I got a list of persons belonging to the Union whom it was probable might subscribe for the voice but dared not ask a man to subscribe for it: so that nothing apparently was done Tuesday. I am feeling stricken about the closing up of the work for the voice.

I went to bed with the determination, that I would in the morning, see what impression I could be made upon the working men of Worcester. I spent the day until 2 1/2 o'clock in one or two machine shops. I got subscription to the amount of six dollars.

In the mean time my proposal to lecture before the Protective Union was warmly seconded, & the largest Hall in town, capable of holding 2000 was engaged & 500 handbills were circulated. But as it happened boys distributed them, & the result was, that not one quarter of the people knew any thing about it. We all concluded the meeting would be a failure - that not fifty persons would be there. But we were agreeably surprised with an audience of between 3 & four hundred. I was very fortunate in my manner of approaching my audience & my subject. I never spoke to a more interested & attentive audience.

Today, I have visited the same shops which I did yesterday, & have obtained about \$15. in subscriptions & there are hosts of large establishments that I have not visited at all. But the people were so much pleased with the lecture last night that they are determined to have another soon & they will spare no pains to have it notified - will pay me for coming here & I have no doubt, that I can often that, obtain double the number I now have of subscribers. I shall spend all the time, which I possibly can tomorrow before going to Springfield in obtaining Subs.

Mr Greeley's excellent notice of the Voice in his
edition of Dec 1 was a great encouragement to me
But our paper is nothing so good as I could make
it if I had nothing to do but attend to the editorial
department.

The rain has poured to-day incessantly, but I have not
minded it at all, except when I thought of you alone
at home & in suffering. If you were but well, I could
bear the temporary separation, in the prospect of be-
ing able to put our paper on a permanent and joy-
ing basis in a comparatively short time: but as it is,
I am sure that you feel with me, need of the sacrifice
& trust with me, in ~~the~~ hope, that thereby, we are working ef-
fectually for the realization of good to our race.

If I go to Springfield, I shall probably not be at
home before Wednesday or Thursday.

Sonest. Keep your spirit & active life open to the universal
to the acceptance of good from everywhere. & let us be
as joyful that ^{others seek to} ~~may~~ find their complement in us, however
humble they may be, as we are joyful to find ourselves com-
pleted in those, to whom we look up with love & trust.

The more I find myself penetrated with the feeling of hu-
man solidarity, the more do I find it impossible to be in-
different ^{to} any human or living thing. The waters of an-
gels be over thee, folded in the mantle of my love. & so

Good night. Love to all

Even your John

Mrs Marianne D. Covey
Jamaica Plain
Proxbury
Vt 602

[COPY]
Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Worcester Dec 2nd 1847.

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Rejoice with me! God helps those who help themselves! Wisdom & perseverance will secure the triumph of a noble purpose. Monday I left Boston at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock p.m. I reached Worcester about 5 o'clock, went to the Office of the Christian Citizen where I found our true & cordial friend Mr Butterfield who at once invited me home with him to Messrs Sawyers & Tredwell's house. I found them on the point of breaking up housekeeping but glad to see me & to seat me at their board. I stayed with them until this morning when Mr B & myself took leave of them as Mr T's folks were to leave for Exeter in the afternoon & all the household would then be broken up, & Mr S's folks would be packing up for the south. On Tuesday I sauntered about town among the Protectionists & working men found I could not lecture until Wednesday evening. Everybody but the workingmen told me Worcester was a hard place--that I couldn't do anything. I got a list of persons belonging to the Union whom it was probable might subscribe for the Voice but dared not ask a man to subscribe for it, so that nothing apparently was done Tuesday. I 'gan feeling *stricken* about the closing up of the week for the Voice I went to bed with the determination that I would in the morning see what impression I could make upon the working men of Worcester. I spent the day until 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock in one or two machine-shops. I got subscription to the amount of six dollars. In the meantime my proposal to lecture before the Protective Union was warmly seconded, & the largest hall in town, capable of holding 2,000 was engaged & 500 handbills were circulated. But as it happened boys distributed them, & the result was, that not one quarter of the people knew anything about it. We all concluded the meeting would be a failure--that not fifty persons would be there. But we were agreeably surprized with an audience of between 3 & four hundred. I was very fortunate in my manner of approaching my audience & my subject. I never spoke to a more interested & attentive audience. Today, I have visited the same shops which I did yesterday, & have obtained about \$15 in subscriptions & there are hosts of large establishments that I have not visited at all. But the people were so much pleased with the lecture last night that they are determined to have another soon, & they will spare no pains to have it notified--will pay me for coming here--& I have no doubt, that I can after that, obtain double the number I now have of subscribers. I shall spend all the time, which I possibly can tomorrow before going to Springfield in obtaining sub's--

Mr Greeley's excellent notice of the Voice in his Tribune of Dec 1 was a great encouragement to me. But our paper is nothing as good as I could make it if I had nothing to do but attend to the editorial departments.

The rain has poured today incessantly, but I have not minded it at all, except when I thought of you alone at home & in suffering. If you were but well, I could bear the temporary separation, in the prospect of being able to put our paper on a permanent and paying basis in a comparatively short time: but as it is, I am sure that you feel with me, in the hope, that thereby, we are working effectually for the realization of good to our race. If I go to Springfield I shall probably not be at home before Wednesday or Thursday.

Dearest keep your spirit & active life open to the Universal to the acceptance of good from everywhere, & let us be as joyful that others seek to find their complement in us, however humble they

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Worcester Dec 2nd 1847.

may be, as we are joyful to find ourselves completed in those to whom we look up with love & trust. The more I find myself penetrated with the feeling of human solidarity, the more do I find it impossible to be indifferent to any human or living thing. The watch of angels be over thee, folded in the mantle of my love! & so good night. Love to all

Ever your John

Envelope addressed to

Mrs Marianne D. Orvis
Jamaica Plain
Roxbury
Mass.



Manchester, N.H. Dec 9 1847

My Dear Maria Anne

You will be disappointed to learn that I shall not be at home before Monday forenoon, & then only for a few hours, previously to going to Worcester. I find that I cannot lecture here until tomorrow night & on Saturday evening Mr Brooks from New York is to lecture here on National Reform and the people ~~have~~ are desirous that I should stay & participate in the meeting. I am very desirous of seeing Mr Brooks & shall not be able to do so unless I stop here.

He is son to one of the largest land-holders in Western New York but is wholly opposed to the injustice of the present system of land monopoly. I think that by staying, I may be able to do something for the people. I have not been able to do anything thus far, I shall attend the meeting of the Manchester Union tonight, & endeavor to have them do something. I am not discouraged at all, but I don't know how we are to get on with the people. I must lecture in order to obtain subscribers to it. It must sustain itself by the National Reform

+ Protective Union Movement. The meeting
on Saturday evening, will be of service
to us.

My dear I don't believe you will thank me
careless of you. Ours is the common lot
of humanity today, trial & toil, but after
all we do not suffer any thing in com-
parison with the millions. And the only
comfort we get is through efforts to im-
prove the condition of our fellows. When
I am mingling with the uninformed,
worn, & degraded working-classes I pre-
sently feel how lonely & thankless is my
task. How full of despondence; but then
the other feeling always follows, of thank-
fulness that it is so. That I am not, & can
not be happy whilst the meanest of my
fellows suffers. The harvest will ~~surely~~ follow
the trustful sowing - past the
present toil: and if I do not succeed as
I would in this thing - there are other
schemes of labor, & nothing in the ^{end} will
be lost: & triumph will be seen in all
that will have been done. I am not going
to be cloudy because the sky may
be so. Be bright & calm & the rays of your
peace will gleam gladness into my heart.
Love to all - even thine John.
My cold is bitter & am pretty well.

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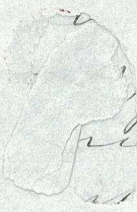




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CHICAGO
DEC 9
1891

B. F. Tracy
for Mr. John Irving
Care of Coffin & Wood
Boston



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[COPY]

Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Manchester N.H. Dec.9 1847

My dear Marianne

You will be disappointed to learn that I shall not be at home before Monday forenoon, & then only for a few hours, previously to going to Worcester. I find that I cannot lecture here until tomorrow night & on Saturday evening Mr Brooks from New York is to lecture here on National Reform and the people are desirous that I should stay & participate in the meeting. I am very desirous of seeing Mr Brooks & shall not be able to do so unless I stop here. He is son to one of the largest land-holders in Western New York, but is wholly opposed to the injustice of the present system of land monopoly. I think that by staying, I may be able to do something for the paper. I have not been able to anything thus far. I shall attend the meeting of the Manchester Union to-night, & endeavor to have them do something. I am not discouraged at all, but I don't know how we are to get on with the paper. I must lecture in order to obtain subscribers to it. It must sustain itself by the National Reform & Protective Union Movement. The meeting on Saturday evening will be of service to us.

My dear I don't believe you will think me careless of you. Ours is the common lot of Humanity today, trial & toil, but after all we do not suffer anything in comparison with the millions. And the only comfort we get is through efforts to improve the condition of our fellows. When I am mingling with the uninformed, worn & degraded working-classes I frequently feel how lonely & thankless is my task, how full of repugnance; but then the other feeling always follows, of thankfulness that it is so--that I am not & cannot be happy whilst the meanest of my fellows suffers. The harvest will ere long follow the trustful sowing--rest the present toil: and if I do not succeed as I would in this thing--there are other spheres of labor, & nothing in the end will be lost; & triumph will be seen in all that will have been done. I am not going to be cloudy because the sky may be so. Be bright & calm & the ways of your peace will gleam gladness into my heart. Love to all--

Ever thine

John

My cold is better & am pretty well.

Letter addressed to Mr. B F Dwight
for Mrs John Orvis
Care of Coffin & Weld
Boston

Springfield Dec 15. 1847.

My Dear -

I came to this place today, & shall remain here at Cabotville, until Saturday. I had a very large audience at Worcester, & the result is a very thorough interest amongst the Working men of that place. They will very soon have another Division organized there. But do you believe our good Associationists in Boston who enjoy their fine meetings & pleasant chats & labors have any conception of the very irksome labors of their humble friend who loves you so well. One would love dearly to be always in the society of refined, intelligent & liberal minds. But may it not be well for us to know by personal experience, how poverty & want of sympathy, dwarfs our nature? how a round of degrading services & labors debases our whole manhood? If I did not feel that it would be mean, to ^{shrink} away from even the ^{lowest} ~~meanest~~ of the race, I would ~~at times~~ take the solitude of pioneer life, & the "wide birth" which Nature offers the savage, rather than suffer the infliction, of meeting so many crushed & half-imbruted natures. But there is an earnest purpose at the base of all natures, which we can but respect because it belongs to all humanity.

The working men of this place in so far as I have seen are not so intelligent as they are in Worcester. & I do not expect to do nearly so well for the Papers here as there. but we must ^{"wait"} until after election, as the saying goes, to know who is Governor.

I went into the Boston Union Room on Monday I saw our dear Ellen, & had a charming time with her. She is very lovely. I wish the good friends who meet in that room from time to time could but know what they enjoy - I hope they will not allow themselves to be lulled into a "comal repose". I saw quite a lot of beautiful things - among others, two or three little books of beautiful wild flowers & autumn leaves, & it seemed to me I had others like them. But they were the first things among all the beautiful, which attracted my attention.

The time is going to seem pretty long but I shall not be home before Saturday I think. I hope dearest you are well. & that we shall both live through the separation.
Ever your John.

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for Mrs Conig
Care of Coffin & Wells
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Orvis, John to Marianne Dwight Orvis

Springfield Dec.15, 1847.

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Ever your

John

Envelope addressed to B F Dwight
for Mrs Orvis
Care of Coffin & Weld
Boston